

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Warm, wet weather prevailed this week, but nothing too out of the ordinary this time of year. Measurable precipitation was reported by 42 of the 43 stations. Low temperatures ranged from 13 degrees in Christmas Valley to 38 degrees in Crescent City and Portland. High temperatures ranged from 54 degrees in Astoria and Florence to 74 degrees in Medford. The Detroit Lake station reported the most with 3.57 total inches, followed by the Astoria/Clatsop station with 2.88 total inches.

Field Crops: The month of March was very wet with a few opportunities to complete significant field work. Warm dry days near the end of the week provided a small window for producers to apply fertilizer to winter wheat. Producers also used the dry days to continue planting spring seeded crops. There was little concern about the availability of irrigation water for this season. Grass seed crops were fertilized and growing rapidly.

Vegetables: Wet weather has been a challenge for vegetable growers, putting planting on hold until soil conditions improve. Rhubarb was growing rapidly.

Fruits and Nuts: Caneberries appear to have come through the winter without freeze damage. Fruit tree orchards have most of the pruning done. Blooming season is upon the State. With the cooler spring, growers are hoping for some warm days and nights that are not so cold. Jackson County reported some nights have been close to frost stage with some protection needed. Blueberries leafed out and were ready to bloom, while strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries were showing green tissue. Filberts were being pruned. Wasco producers were watching for possible freeze damage from late February, but were optimistic regarding crop prospects.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Greenhouses were busy getting out flats and pots of hardy decorative plants. Nurseries were busy tending to spring trees and shrubs in preparation for sale.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pasture growth was off to a late start across the State due to cold and wet conditions. Jackson County reported good water supplies for the irrigation season, although cattle were still on supplemental feeding. Some cattle were being turned out on spring rangeland pastures in Harney County. In Grant County, wet fields made it hard to work cattle.

Soil Moisture - Week Ending 04/03/11

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	1	49	50
Subsoil	0	1	51	48

Crop Condition - Week Ending 04/03/11

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	1	32	46	21
Range and pasture	3	14	39	40	4

Crop Progress - Week Ending 04/03/11

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	46	-	45	39
Barley emerged	42	-	16	20
Spring wheat planted	25	-	65	45
Spring wheat emerged	9	-	27	17
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.0	-	2.6	-

CLACKAMAS: Caneberries appear to have come through the winter without freeze damage. The cooler spring has caused little to no bee activity for pollinating. Pasture growth is at least two weeks behind normal due to cold. Spring seeding was so far limited to no-till.

COOS/CURRY: Temperatures have been slightly above average for the month. Low temps were over 4 degrees above the 5-year average in Brookings (southern Curry) and about 0.5 degrees above the 5-year average in Bandon (Coos Co.). High temps through the week were about 1.5 degrees above the 5-year average in both southern Curry, and over Coos. Heaviest precipitation was early in the week for both counties. Producers continued waiting for pastures to dry sufficiently to move cattle onto the bottoms. There were zero days suitable for field work during the period. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temp for the period was 36.25 degrees, 0.48 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 59.27 degrees, 1.47 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 1.17 inches, which is 0.28 inches below the 5-year average for the week. Weather year 2011 (began 10/1/2010) precipitation stands at 44.45 inches, 2.92 inches below the 5-year average. Average precipitation through the month of March is 47.99 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry): Low temp for the period was 41.3 degrees, 4.11 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 61.62 degrees, 1.66 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 1.02 inches, compared to a 5-year average of 1.89 inches. Weather year 2011 (began 10/1/2010) precipitation stands at 71.51 inches, 2.31 inches above the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation through March is 58.82 inches. We have averaged almost an inch of rain per day for most of March, but the grass growth has been good to very good, except where fields are still flooded.

DOUGLAS: March has been so wet that very little field work has been completed this month. Fortunately January and February were nice so vineyards and orchards were sprayed and pruned early this year. Currently there is a need to get back into orchards to make a delayed dormant spray and early fungicide bloom treatments for plums, peaches, apricots, nectarines, and cherries. There was full bloom with peaches, petal fall for plums, and early bloom for cherries. Pastures had extra moisture but need to have slightly warmer temperatures to get some growth. Livestock prices all seemed to be staying at high levels and it looks like all our operating costs will be increasing a lot.

JACKSON: The continuous cold rainy weather during this winter and so far this spring has really slowed down the spring field preparation and planting. Pasture and hay crops were off to a late start. A few good warm days would do a lot for pastures, hay, and grain crops that are already planted. Apple and pear orchards were looking ok with most of the pruning done. Peaches and apricots were in early stages of bloom, but need some warm days, and nights that are not so cold. Some

nights have been close to frost stage with some protection needed. Greenhouses were busy getting out their early starts of hardy decorative plants. Nurseries busy with spring tree and shrub plants. Lots of new calves and baby sheep were out with their mothers. Most of them were looking quite good, but it has been a different birthing season with the cold, wet weather. Pastures were off to a later than normal start, so most ranchers were still doing supplemental feeding. There should be lots of good water supplies for the irrigation season. Most folks are really ready for some good warmer weather. Beginning of week was cooler with some rain. Mid-week started to clear and was drier. Farmers were still planting spring crops when fields were dry enough. Hay fields are growing with warmer temperatures.

JOSEPHINE: Little precipitation this week, mostly in the form of fog, burning off by 10 a.m. Overnight cools were 28-40, and daytime temperatures were upper 40s to 69. Perennials, flowering shrubs, and bulbs are blooming. Everything was in speed-up mode. Vegetable gardening took place for those who were able to get their soil worked.

LANE: Constant wet weather has limited spring tillage and field work. Above normal rust and Septoria pressure in winter wheat this year. Lots of local hay carry over. Grass seed fertilizing was full blast this week. Diseases may be heavy with the warm and wet weather. Peaches and plums were blooming with pears near bloom and apples swelling. Blueberries leafed out and were ready to bloom. Strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries were showing green tissue. Soil still very wet.

LINN/BENTON/LINCOLN: The weather this past month has been unseasonably wet. Farmers have been unable to get out on their fields to fertilize and/or spray. Many of the spring planted crops are still to be planted at this time. The winter wheat crop is showing signs of stress in areas that are above average on moisture.

MARION: Rains finally stopped at the end of the week. March was filled with rainy days and few opportunities for field work needing dry conditions. Most wheat has been fertilized and spring herbicides are going on as needed. Grass seed crops are starting to grow rapidly.

WASHINGTON: With a few breaks in the weather, farmers were able to fertilize wheat and grass seed fields. March was unusually wet and cold. Reports indicated that March 2011 was the 9th coldest and wettest in historical data. Winter wheat growing sufficiently in well drained soils, clover starting to show leafing, and grasses are growing well. Pruning filberts and fruit trees was taking place. Rhubarb was growing rapidly. Hood house were being prepared for planting. Plants were ready in flats and pots. Calves look good and cattle wintered well. Herbicides were being applied to winter wheat and grasses. Rainfall last week 0.5 inches, for month of March, 9.0 inches. High temperature 70 degrees, low 32 degrees.

Eastern Oregon

BAKER/UNION: The end of the week was drier allowing producers to work fields and start planting spring wheat. Cold, wet, and windy conditions persisted this week with a brief glimpse of spring on April 1. Not much field work has been accomplished to date due to snow/rain events delivering much needed moisture to recharge profile. River/stream flows have peaked and are running full. Very wet March has caused delay in planting of spring crops. Very little field work has been done due to wet conditions. Pasture growth is behind due to cold temperatures. Farmers were anxious to get in the field.

GILLIAM: Cold spring temperatures have delayed wheat emerging from dormancy at higher elevations. Native pasture forage growth delayed by cold temperatures as well.

GRANT: The beginning of the week started off cool and wet making it difficult to work cattle and prepare fields for planting.

HARNEY: The weather improved markedly last week, providing respite from a challenging calving season related to cool, wet conditions. Some cattle were being turned out on spring rangeland pastures. Warmer conditions provided a jump start to spring runoff and water was being spread over some flood-irrigated hay meadows.

HOOD RIVER: Variable but seasonable weather conditions prevailed through the week. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear with blossom buds exposed (WSU stage 2); Red Delicious apple at half-inch green (WSU stage 3); Bing cherry at green tip (WSU stage 3); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stages 1-3.

KLAMATH: A cool wet spring may finally be coming to an end. Farmers took advantage of the warm weather late in the week to start spring field work. Irrigation for the year looks promising with anticipated full deliveries out of Gerber, Clear Lake and Klamath Lake.

LAKE: Spring field work has begun in some areas. Reservoir levels are up compared to past years. Irrigation water not likely a concern this year. There was average snow pack for the basin.

MALHEUR: March weather has been cool and wet. Both high and low temperatures have mostly stayed below normal. Precipitation has been above normal with 3 inches for the month with most of the rain and rain/snow mix coming in the last half of the month. No significant farming activity. Still too wet. Too cold for early grass and hay supplies were dwindling.

SHERMAN: Cereal crop is actually a month ahead of previous years. However, while free of rust (knock on wood) in this area, there is plenty of fusarium and cold weather damage to go around. Today is first decent day for spraying.

UMATILLA: Stripe rust and soil borne mosaic virus were both creating problems in local fields of winter wheat.

WALLOWA: Moisture levels were very good for this time of year.

WASCO: Tree fruit producers are watching for possible freeze damage from late February, but are encouraged with the prospects of a good crop. Forage producers are looking towards a good crop. Everyone would appreciate a little more sunshine and warmer temperatures.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 3, 2011 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria	35	54	47	+2	-	-7	2.88	1.52	7	67.77	13.30	124	155
Bandon ⁸	36	59	49	+2	10	+3	1.17	-0.23	6	46.25	-3.23	93	143
Crescent City	38	56	49	-2	4	-13	0.29	-1.32	2	52.76	-2.88	95	115
Florence	34	54	47	-2	-	-7	2.75	1.03	7	64.29	0.84	101	150
North Bend	36	57	49	+2	9	+2	1.52	0.04	4	39.40	-13.96	74	103
Tillamook	37	57	49	+3	8	+1	2.42	0.52	6	63.11	-9.24	87	138
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	35	65	50	+4	18	+11	1.08	0.29	5	41.31	8.17	125	141
Corvallis	32	66	50	+3	16	+9	0.64	-0.17	5	36.38	0.48	101	141
Detroit Lake ⁸	33	67	44	+4	5	+5	3.57	2.24	7	81.92	25.91	146	145
Eugene	33	70	51	+3	25	+12	0.91	-0.11	4	31.56	-9.93	76	109
Hillsboro	32	66	49	+2	15	+8	0.41	-0.31	4	32.41	1.32	104	130
McMinnville	34	66	49	+2	15	+6	0.54	-0.32	5	36.25	-0.61	98	130
Portland	38	68	51	+3	21	+9	0.82	0.14	5	37.97	9.04	131	127
Salem	34	67	51	+5	21	+14	0.81	0.07	4	38.62	6.12	119	124
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	30	73	50	-1	24	+4	1.16	0.56	5	34.18	7.12	126	107
Medford	30	74	51	+3	25	+10	0.56	0.21	3	16.36	0.87	106	83
Roseburg	33	71	53	+4	30	+14	0.93	0.25	4	28.68	1.29	105	114
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	24	69	46	+5	10	+10	0.41	0.13	7	12.84	3.27	134	93
Echo ⁸	36	73	52	+4	22	+9	0.42	0.25	3	9.53	2.91	144	90
Heppner	32	71	49	+4	18	+11	0.45	0.10	4	10.84	1.48	116	93
Hermiston	36	73	52	+4	19	+6	0.60	0.43	3	9.82	3.20	148	84
Madras ⁸	22	73	48	+4	19	+12	-	-0.17	-	8.47	1.20	117	82
Moro	29	67	47	+4	5	+0	0.12	-0.09	1	11.33	3.04	137	74
Parkdale ⁸	31	66	47	+1	15	+7	0.52	0.01	4	37.75	10.83	140	126
Pendleton	35	70	50	+3	17	+7	0.51	0.27	5	12.30	3.71	143	91
Prairie City ⁸	22	73	48	+4	19	+12	-	-0.17	-	8.47	1.20	117	82
The Dalles	36	73	52	+8	24	+17	0.05	-0.17	2	10.71	0.95	110	90
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	27	64	44	+5	1	+1	0.11	-0.19	2	14.62	2.13	117	81
Bend	20	72	45	+5	12	+8	0.10	-0.07	3	5.54	-2.92	65	41
Burns	26	66	43	+4	3	+1	0.12	-0.09	4	10.52	3.99	161	85
Christmas Valley ⁸	13	70	41	-1	2	-5	0.09	-0.12	3	7.47	-1.22	86	86
Klamath Falls	18	70	43	+2	1	-4	0.07	-0.16	2	8.22	-2.12	79	60
Klamath Falls ⁸	20	70	43	+2	-	-5	0.07	-0.16	3	10.42	0.08	101	84
Lakeview	18	67	40	+0	-	-3	0.08	-0.22	3	12.09	1.03	109	88
Lorella ⁸	21	68	43	+2	-	-5	0.13	-0.10	1	10.57	0.23	102	80
Redmond	17	71	45	+4	5	-2	0.02	-0.12	2	8.14	2.53	145	62
Worden ⁸	21	69	43	+3	1	-4	0.04	-0.19	2	9.95	-0.39	96	72
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	26	69	43	+2	8	+3	0.27	0.06	2	7.68	1.70	128	79
Joseph	24	65	41	+4	1	+1	0.54	0.12	4	9.50	-8.02	54	84
La Grande	32	70	47	+5	16	+9	0.76	0.41	5	8.74	-2.85	75	85
Union	29	68	45	+3	5	-2	1.06	0.78	6	12.37	4.46	156	98
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	26	70	48	+1	19	+7	0.34	0.17	3	8.77	1.72	124	69
Rome	23	71	45	+3	7	+2	0.02	-0.17	1	8.32	3.50	173	62

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2011: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2010.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normal period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.